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**Reflection # 2**

How important is the literature review (and differentiating between various types of journals) and assessing prior research, theorists, and current instructional strategies?

With today’s world being led by technology and the internet, there’s no telling if information provided on the internet is valid or not. As students (of all ages), it is important to be able to differentiate between the different types of information that is available to us. It is important to get your information from a variety of sources. There are three sources of information that we have learned about which include blind refereed articles, peer reviewed articles, and trade magazines.

Peer reviewed articles are reliable articles in a journal that are reviewed by an editorial board. Blind refereed articles are the most highly regarded and reliable. These articles are not reviewed by an editorial board. Instead experts and scholars in the field go over anonymous papers (usually professionals of the field) that are sent to them. Papers are accepted, accepted with revisions, or rejected and sent back. Trade magazines or periodicals are the type of resources that you get in school. They provide information that may be interesting or of value to the reader however they are not usually reviewed by a special editorial board or experts in the field. However, they may be reviewed or edited by the editing team of that specific magazine. These magazines include many advertisements and may lack reliability.

According to the Center For Collaborative Action (2011), “a literature review is a creative way of organizing what has been written about a topic by scholars and researchers…your purpose is to convey to your reader what you have learned through a careful reading of a set of articles related to your research question”. Through this exposure, you become an expert in the area. Assessing prior research and conducting literature reviews, allows us to analyze a situation and the research what has been previously conducted on the issue. With this insight, we get a greater understanding of the problem, causes and probable solutions.

Theorists can either be for or against the issue that is being studied. Theorists are knowledgeable of the topic and are able to provide alternate views. Researchers can use the work of theorists to prove or disprove their ideas. They can also continue studying the ideas of a theorist in hopes of new findings.

Current instructional strategies are important because they help us learn and understand what techniques are effect and ineffective in the classroom. With this knowledge, we will be able to make improvements in schools and provide students with effective strategies to help promote growth.

References

**Collaborative Action (2011). Reviewing the Literature in Preparation for Action Research. Retrieved from** http://ccar.wikispaces.com/Review+Literature